

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 29, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 7, 8, 10-17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 50 and 51 have been amended to place the subject matter in clear condition for allowance. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. Claims 50 and 51 have been allowed. Claims 4-51 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 11, 15, 16, 25 and 32 were objected to because of informalities. All of claims 11, 15, 16, 25 and 32 have been amended to overcome the objections indicated in the Office Action. Thus, Applicant requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action indicated that claims 4-6, 9-14, 16, 18, 21, 26-30, 33-44, and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4-6 are in independent form and claims 9-14, 16, 18, 21, 26-30, 33-44 depend on independent claim 4. Thus, Applicant requests that all of claims 4-6, 9-14, 16, 18, 21, 26-30, and 33-44 be allowed.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 17, 22-25, 31, 32, 45-47 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,815,246 to Sperling. As to the rejection of claim 1-3, 7, 8, 15, 17, 22-25, 31, and 32, claims 1-3 have been cancelled and claims 7, 8, 15, 17, 22-25, 31, 32 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 4. Thus,

Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 7, 8, 15, 17, 22-25, 31 and 32 be withdrawn and that all of claims 7, 8, 15, 17, 22-25, 31 and 32 be allowed. The rejection of claims 45-47 and 49 is traversed as being based on a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claims 45 and 46.

Claim 45, upon which claims 47-49 depend, recites a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus including a mover device and a processing unit that performs processing on a processing object attached to a processing base of the mover device. The mover device includes a fixed base, a movable base that is movable in a linear direction with respect to the fixed base, the processing base that is movable in a linear direction with respect to the movable base, the linear direction being in parallel with the linear moving direction of the movable base, a moving force generating unit that is provided between the processing base and the movable base, and forms a main moving unit in cooperation with the processing base and the movable base, and a velocity controlling unit that controls the moving velocity of the processing base with respect to the fixed base. The moving force generating unit is designed to generate a moving force to move the processing base with respect to the movable base, and, as a result, to move the processing base with respect to the fixed base. The movable base on the fixed base is moved in the opposite direction to the moving direction of the processing base by virtue of a reaction force caused by the moving force generated from the moving force generating unit to move the processing base.

Claim 46 recites a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus of a vacuum processing type including a mover device and a processing unit that performs processing on a processing object attached to a processing base of the mover device in a vacuum. The mover device includes a fixed base, a movable base that is movable in a linear direction with respect to the fixed base, the processing base that is movable in a linear direction with respect to the movable base, the linear direction being in parallel with the linear moving direction of the movable base, a moving force generating unit that is provided between the processing base and the movable base, and forms a main moving unit in cooperation with the processing base and the movable base, and a velocity controlling unit that controls the moving velocity of the processing base with respect to the fixed base. The moving force generating unit being designed to generate a moving force to move the processing base with respect to the movable base, and, as a result, to move the processing base with respect to the fixed base. The movable base on the fixed base being moved in the opposite direction to the moving direction of the processing base by virtue of a reaction force caused by the moving force generated from the moving force generating unit to move the processing base.

As outlined below, Applicant submits that the cited reference of Sperling does not teach or suggest the elements of claims 45-49.

Sperling teaches a lithographic devices with a frame that includes a carrier which supports a support body. The support body is displaceably guided parallel to the X-direction and parallel to the Y-direction along the upper surface of the carrier. The

carrier forms a base of the positioning device while the support body forms a balancing unit of the positioning device. A substrate holder forms a displaceable unit of the positioning device by means of two X-actuators and Y-actuator. The support body forms a common balancing unit for the two X actuators and the Y-actuator. The support body is guided over the upper surface of the carrier by means of a static gas bearing so that the common balancing unit is displaceable along the upper surface parallel to the X-direction under the influence of reaction forces of the X-actuator and displaceable along the upper surface parallel to the Y-direction under the influence of reaction forces of the Y-actuator. The support body is rotatable over the upper surface about an axis of rotation directed parallel to the Z direction, so that also a reaction moment can be compensated for which arises when the two X-actuators are activated in mutually opposed directions for obtaining a rotation of the substrate holder about an axis of rotation which is parallel to the Z-direction. Col. 8, line 66-Col. 9, line 20 and Col. 10, lines 4-31.

Applicant submits that Sperling simply does not teach or suggest each element of claims 45-49. Claims 45 and 46, in part, recite controlling the moving velocity of the processing base with respect to the fixed base. According to the Office Action, Col. 12, lines 11-4 of Sperling teaches the moving force generating unit and velocity controlling unit as recited in independent claims 45 and 46. However, the cited sections of Sperling only discloses that the rotation motor is controlled by a control unit which also controls the X-actuator and the Y-actuator. Sperling discloses that the support body includes a first and second balancing part for preventing undesired rotations of the support body,

where the second balancing part is rotatable relative to the first balancing part about an axis rotation extending parallel to the Z direction by means of the rotation motor. See at least figure 3 and Col. 11, line 59- Col. 12, line 14. There is no teaching in Sperling of the rotation motor controlling the moving velocity of the processing base with respect to the fixed base as suggested by the Office Action and recited in independent claims 45 and 46. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) should be withdrawn because Sperling does not teach or suggest each feature of claims 45 and 46 and hence dependent claims 47-49, thereon.

As noted previously, claims 4-44 and 50-51 now recite subject matter which was indicated to be allowable and claims 45-59 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art reference cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 4-51 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time